

REMARKS:

The claims in the application are 1-14, 16-25 and Claim 27 introduced herein.

Favorable reconsideration of the application as amended is respectfully requested.

Applicant elects Species 1: Figs. 1-4, for examination at the present time. Currently, Claims 1-14, 16-18, 25 and Claim 27 added herein all read upon the elected species. In this regard, it is respectfully pointed out at least the four pending independent Claims 1, 14, 16 and 25 are generic to all embodiments in the present application. More specifically, Claims 19-24, which are directed to the embodiment shown in Figs. 5 and 6, depend directly or indirectly from independent Claim 16 which recites presence of a piston 30, cylinder 40, spring element 10 and additional spring element 20 as shown, e.g., in Figs. 1 and 2.

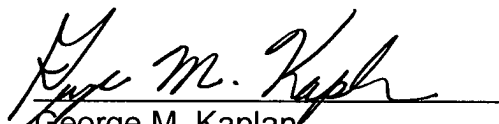
Independent Claim 27 introduced herein is directed to an especially preferred embodiment of the present invention shown, e.g., in Figs. 1 and 2 and finding support throughout the present application, e.g., in originally-filed Claims 7-10. In this particular embodiment, should the hydraulic pressure in hydraulic pressure system of the spring element 10 decrease, then the auxiliary spring 20 is automatically released due the connection of the hydraulic cylinder 200 which preloads the auxiliary spring 20 within the strut cylinder piston space 42. If the

pressure decreases in the strut cylinder piston space 42, pressure also decreases in the hydraulic cylinder 200 which causes the auxiliary spring 20 to be released in the auxiliary mode of operation (reference is being made to preferred embodiments of the present invention illustrated in the drawings of the present application).

A petition for an automatic one month extension of time for response under 37 C.F.R. §1.136(a) is enclosed in duplicate together with the requisite petition fee and fee for additional independent claim introduced herein.

Early favorable action is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "George M. Kaplan", is written over a horizontal line.

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